

DEPARTMENT OF BACTERIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY  
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December 17, 1957

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Joshua:

I'm sorry to have held up so long the manuscript by Boris Rotman that was submitted to J.Bact from your lab. I have had to spend many hours with this paper to try to find what was sound and interesting in it, and to try to find why it was so difficult to read. I imagine that the fact that you left for Australia this fall had a good deal to do with the release of the manuscript in its present, inadequate form.

I was tempted to throw the thing back to the Journal with the recommendation that they return it to you for general revision. However, it seemed to me that it might be more helpful to you and Boris if I gave you my criticisms in some detail. Accordingly, I am enclosing a copy. I have not yet sent this to the J. Bact., but have simply notified Roger Porter, who is breathing down my neck, that I've communicated with you directly. I would appreciate your letting me know whether I should send these comments officially to the Journal, as I would do if it were a stranger's paper, or whether I should simply notify them that I have recommended modification and have discussed the matter in detail with you.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,



Bernard D. Davis

P.S. I haven't written Boris Rotman about the paper, of which he sent me a copy privately, or about his inquiry concerning the possibility of spending a few months here. I should write him soon. I remember him as a likeable person, and I imagine it would be fun to have him around here. However, he certainly missed the boat on the extraction of RNA inhibited enzymes, and it seems to me that he has messed up the present problem in mixing together data on induced and on non-specific transport systems. I wonder whether he isn't tending to work on problems that are too complicated for his talents. I'd appreciate any advice you might give me on what I might expect of a visit from him. *allegedly*